

GRANT.

THE REBEL DASH ON SATURDAY.

THE HERALD DESPATCHES.

What the Rebels First Accomplished.

Fort Steedman and a Mortar Battery Captured, Battery No. 10 Rendered Untenable and Fort Haskell Bombarded.

WHAT THE REBELS AFTERWARDS LOST.

Harranft Ordered to Recover the Lost Ground.

Fort McGilvery and Batteries No. 8 and No. 9 Co-operate.

ALL OF THE LOST GROUND RETAKEN.

The Rebels Cut Off and Surrender.

THREE THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN.

Assault on the Enemy's Lines by the Second and Sixth Corps.

The Rebel Intrenchments Captured and Held.

Splendid Conduct and Promptness of the Union Divisions Engaged.

President Lincoln Reviews a Portion of the Fifth Corps Massed for Action.

Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Grant and Other Ladies View Part of the Fight from Fort Wadsworth.

THE CASUALTIES.

NAMES OF SOME OF THE WOUNDED.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix.

By Major General John A. Dix.

The following official reports of operations of the Army of the Potomac on Saturday, and of General Sherman's operations since he left Fayetteville, have been received this morning. (See another column for despatch about Sherman.)—ED. HERALD.

General Sherman was at Goldsboro on the 26th of this month.

No movements have been made on either side before Richmond or Petersburg since Saturday night.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

CITY POINT, March 27-4:30 A. M.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The battle of the 26th resulted in the following losses on our side:

Second Corps—Killed, 91; wounded, 402; missing, 177.

Sixth Corps—Killed, 47; wounded, 401; missing, 90.

Ninth Corps—Killed, 48; wounded, 533; missing, 506.

Our captures by the Second corps were 265; by the Sixth corps, 469; and by the Ninth corps 1,049.

The Second and Sixth corps pushed forward and captured the enemy's strong intrenchments and turned it against him and still hold it. In trying to retake this the battle was continued until eight o'clock at night, the enemy losing very heavily.

Humphreys estimates the loss of the enemy in his front at three times his own, and General Wright, in his front, as double that of ours.

The enemy brought in a flag of truce for permission to collect his dead, which were between their picket line and their main line of fortifications. Permission was granted.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

THE HERALD REPORTS.

CITY POINT.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch.

THE NATURE AND RESULTS OF SATURDAY'S FIGHT.

At half past four o'clock yesterday morning the enemy, with four divisions, under General Gordon, attacked Fort Steedman, on the right of the Petersburg line, and in front of the Ninth corps, capturing the fort and guns, and turning the guns upon us. At the same time they assaulted Fort Haskell, in front of General Wilcox's division, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Fort Haskell was garrisoned by a part of General Hancock's brigade. Two brigades of General Hancock's division were immediately put in, and recaptured the fort and guns, together with eighteen hundred rebel prisoners and eight battle flags. The guns were uninjured. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded was fully one thousand. Our own loss is sixty-eight killed, three hundred and eighty-seven wounded, and four hundred and ninety-six missing. Among our losses by capture is Brigadier General McLaughlin, captured in Fort Steedman. As soon as it was known that the enemy's attack on Fort Steedman was in strong force the Second corps, under Major General Humphreys, was advanced towards the enemy's works in its front, driving in their pickets, carrying the intrenched picket line, which he held at eight o'clock last evening, and capturing six hundred prisoners.

killed and wounded, and a few missing. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded on this part of the line alone is about double this.

This movement was made in the belief that the enemy had detached heavily from this part of his line for the assault on our right. But their works were found to be still strongly manned.

General Wright also advanced his skirmish line, under heavy fire of musketry and artillery, and carried and held the enemy's intrenched picket line in his front, capturing four hundred and sixteen prisoners. His own loss was small.

The promptitude with which the several corps of the Army of the Potomac moved to their proper positions argues well for the state of their efficiency and discipline, and bespeaks success in the ensuing campaign.

THE PRESIDENT AND LADY VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL HARRANFT.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln, accompanied by General Grant and staff, and Mrs. Grant, and Mrs. Rawlins, visited General Meade's headquarters yesterday, and will probably go to General Ord's to-day.

General Sherman reached Harrison's Landing, on the James river, yesterday.

FORT STEEDMAN.

Mr. Theodore C. Wilson's Despatch.

FORT STEEDMAN, BATAILIA FORTRESS, March 26—Noon.

The stillness of the past few weeks was this morning broken by an attack from the rebel side, bold and fierce in its character, but ending in defeat and disgrace to those who made it.

PREPARATIONS BY THE ENEMY.

For several days past the corps commanded by the rebel General Gordon had held a position in front of the right and right center of the line of the Army of the Potomac. To-day, some two hours before daylight, this corps was silently and promptly formed for a charge. Everything being ready and the proper disposition of the several divisions and brigades having been carefully made, the order "Forward" was given. At this time the first attack of dawn appeared in the east. It was not one of those bright, golden tints that are found when a smiling sun is rising to cheer and warm, but a dull, heavy light—the usual accompaniment of cloudy weather.

THE ENEMY OUTRIDE US WORKS.

Without arousing alarm or suspicion, the rebel troops got safely out to the line of works thrown up for the protection of their skirmishers. At a given signal they bounded over these, and rapidly cutting gaps in their own chain of defense, pressed on with a yell towards our line.

THE ATTACK.

That portion of the Union line attacked was occupied by troops of the Ninth army corps. The attack being sudden, and totally unexpected, and made in almost overwhelming force, caused our skirmish line to give way before the rebels, and could not be got up to support it.

The rebels, noting their success, pressed on with vigor, and succeeded in breaking our line, at a point just this side of Fort Steedman.

THE SCENE OF THE CONFLICT.

This side of the Appomattox river, on the front line, are two strong works, then comes Fort McGilvery, and to the left of the latter are Batteries Nos. 8, 9, 10, Fort Steedman, Battery No. 11, a mortar battery, and Fort Haskell. This embraces a frontage of about one mile and a quarter in length. It was on this line that the whole of the fighting was done.

THE ENEMY IN OUR ADJUT.

Reaching our abatis the enemy poured in a terrific volley, while their pioneers, under a heavy return fire, cut it away—that is, they made many large gaps in it, sufficient in size and number for the easy passage of large bodies of troops. It was but the work of a very few minutes for them to force our main line, which they did, making a breach at a point not far to the left of Fort Steedman. The same is located on a rise of ground nearly opposite to Cemetery Hill.

THE ATTACK ON FORT STEEDMAN.

Breaking through on the left of this work, the enemy passed round to a travelled road and captured the fort by charging from the rear, through the regular entrance. So rapidly was this accomplished that the officer in command of the fort, Major Randall, together with General McLaughlin, and a number of men, were taken prisoners. Immediately succeeding the attack General McLaughlin, who had command of the line just to the left of where it was broken, hurried into Fort Steedman, and was giving orders and cheering the men up to the last minute before he was captured.

THE ENEMY FORMS IN LINE OF BATTLE AND ORDERS FROM STEEDMAN.

On gaining possession of Fort Steedman the enemy extended a line of battle, facing west by a little north, from the foot along the hill, over to a line of breastworks, and behind the latter. At the same time the guns of Fort Steedman were turned upon Battery No. 10, and with effect, for our guns were hastily driven out. Battery No. 10 was commanded by Captain John M. Twiss. In it were four eight-inch mortars and three oblong mortars. These the enemy got, and for a short time held possession of them.

When the rebel line was formed, and the enemy still in possession of Fort Steedman and the mortar battery, he was also by extending his line in the direction of Meade station and the railroad.

THE REBEL ATTACK ON BATTERIES NOS. 8 AND 9.

Another rebel line was also formed and charged against batteries Nos. 8 and 9, both in charge of Lieutenant Anson. This rebel advance was checked. The enemy got within two hundred yards of battery No. 9, and five hundred yards of battery No. 8. During the attack just referred to a telling fire was poured in from Fort McGilvery. It was to a great extent an enfilading one.

POSITION OF AFFAIRS AT SEVEN A. M.

This was about seven o'clock. At this juncture our position was not a flattering one. The enemy had broken our line, captured two or three works, taken some four or five hundred prisoners, was threatening our forts close to the Appomattox, and attempting to extend his line over to the railroad near Meade station.

REINFORCEMENTS.

were now brought up. So far but a small portion of the Ninth corps were engaged. The reinforcements were from General Hancock's command, Third division, Ninth corps. Some time was consumed in forming and attacking the line over to the railroad near Meade station.

The reinforcements having been promptly formed in readiness and position for action, General Harranft received orders from General Grant to move on to the recapture of the lost ground. On the left of General Harranft was a portion of General Wilcox's division. This materially contributed to the success of the day.

THE CHARGE.

General Harranft made the advance as ordered. As he did so a terrific fire was opened on Fort Steedman and battery No. 10 from one of our reserve works, and from batteries Nos. 8 and 9 and Fort McGilvery. The charge by the infantry was admirably executed, and the firing from the batteries remarkably precise.

THE WORKERS RECAPTURED.

The rebels could not remain under the heavy fire from our guns, and when at last they commenced to fall back the infantry flanked the fort, and cut off a large body of the rebel troops, who, including many officers, fell into our hands as prisoners of war. We also took several battle flags.

THE REBEL ATTACK.

It was General Gordon, in person, who commanded the rebel attack.

THE REBELS FURNISHED TERRIBLY. Our men literally slaughtered them as they retreated for their works.

By half past eight the engagement was ended.

FLAG OF TRUCE FROM THE ENEMY.

At about ten o'clock General Gordon sent out a flag of truce. The same was in charge of Major Douglas, Assistant Adjutant General, on the staff of General Gordon. The flag was received by Major and Assistant Adjutant General Bertoletti, of General Harranft's staff. Major Douglas presented a request in writing, from General Gordon, seeking permission to gather in the dead and wounded between the two lines belonging to the rebels.

After considerable delay terms were agreed upon and the dead and wounded collected.

Connected with this flag of truce there was much of an interesting character. It was sent out directly in front of Fort Steedman, and remained there some thirty minutes before it was recognized. During this period your correspondent took occasion to pass without our lines.

SCENE PRESENTED BY THE BATTLE FIELD.

Standing between the two lines he witnessed a scene that was anything but gratifying to the human eye. Looking to the Union side, thousands of men were heaped crowded upon the parapets of the Union works, and occupying all positions available to sight-seeing. Crowded among this vast number were both officers and men, some of the officers being mounted. Turning to where the rebel line was located, but a few hundred yards distant, a similar scene was presented. In front of the rebel line, just outside of the skirmish line, stood three rebel officers, one of those being Major Douglas, in charge of the flag of truce. There was now no firing, nor was there any attempt at it, between the hostile parties.

On the right of Fort Steedman is an open plain. On this plain hundreds from both sides ran out to meet the wounded and bring the killed. Moving to the left brings us upon a sloping hill. On this hillside lay large numbers of rebels, writhing in pain and covered with clotted blood. Keeping on and on we reached the brow of the hill, and this brings us directly in front of Fort Steedman.

The distance between these two lines is astonishingly short. The ground was strewn with arms and plentifully covered with cartridge boxes and other accoutrements. In every ditch lay numbers of the enemy's dead and wounded. In one particular spot, just in front of his own works, no less than fifty were found to bite the dust, and they remained there, comatose upon both sides pending the truce.

At the first break of dawn Fort Steedman lay a Cochrane mortar. It had been carried here from out of the fort. The rebels designed to take it away, but were foiled in the attempt by the sharpness of our enfilading fire. Not the least interesting portion of the scene was to observe the gaps in the chain of defense of the enemy's line, as also the gaps in the chain of our own line.

From these gaps it could be easily noted where the enemy had poured in and out, in going both ways. In front of the gaps on the enemy's side lay many dead and wounded. These had been thus caught in the course of their retreat. It was evident our men pressed them very hard and to the last minute.

THE REBEL SOLDIERS COMMUNICATIVE.

Not long after the flag of truce had been sent out, many of the rebel privates left their line, and walked out to communicate with our men, and not perhaps very strange to relate, some fifty or more forgot to go back. One party, six or eight in number, providing themselves with cartridges, rushed out to give the wounded water.

On arriving in the midst of a body of Yankees, where some rebel wounded lay, they found they had no water in their canteens, and hastily made for the Union side to fill them. As they did so one of our men remarked:—"You damned fool, don't you know if you go there you'll be shot?" The interrogated knave, and with a smiling expression of countenance said:—"I don't care a damn if I do."

The rebel officers in charge of the flag of truce, observing that some of their men were trying to desert, ordered all the rebels back to the rebel line. The Union soldiers, observing this, went back too, and the space between the two lines was then left comparatively clear. Soon after there were some small arms discharged at those at the foot of the fort.

Within our own lines we found a very large number of killed and wounded. Both were properly and promptly cared for.

THE ENEMY'S LOSS.

The total rebel loss will reach between six and seven thousand. This includes killed, wounded and prisoners. We have taken many officers, and some of them high in rank. Also, five or more standards of colors.

Our loss will not exceed one thousand.

The day's work, so far, has been a glorious one.

THE NINTH CORPS.

Mr. Charles H. Hannan's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, NINTH ARMY CORPS, NEAR PETERSBURG, March 26, 1865.

THE REBEL ATTACK ON THE NINTH CORPS.

A rebel column, about three thousand strong, under command of Major General Gordon, made an attack on the front of the Ninth corps shortly after five o'clock this morning. The rebel column was sudden, overwhelming, and partially successful. The pickets had received orders not to fire unless there was some necessity for doing so, and the night had been a remarkably quiet one all along the line.

THE POINT OF ATTACK.

Fort Steedman, near Meade station. That part of the line is held by the Third brigade, of the First division, General Wilcox commanding. Fort Steedman is a square work, covering nearly one acre of ground. It was garrisoned chiefly by the Fourteenth New York heavy artillery, under command of Major Randall. The piece in it were brass Napoleons, three rifled pieces and some mortars. Immediately to the left of the fort is a work known as Battery No. 11. The rebels entered both on the right and left of Fort Steedman, tearing down the abatis in several places.

OBJECT OF THE ATTACK.

It is supposed that the rebels had a twofold object in making this attack. First to destroy some portion of General Grant's military railroad, which is here only three-quarters of a mile from their main line; and, secondly, to capture the headquarters of General Wilcox. How they failed in both I will now proceed to explain.

THE REBEL CHARGE.

Under cover of the darkness Gordon massed his men, and they passed rapidly over the short space of ground between their works and ours. The ground is remarkably well adapted for such a movement, being full of ravines. The rebels made good use of every advantage, and entered our works along with such of our pickets as had not been wounded or captured. Their next movement was to close in on the rear and enter Fort Steedman.

The movement was a successful one. The work fell into their hands. Major Randall was seized by some of the rebels and tossed over the parapet into the ditch. His head struck the soft muddy bottom without injuring him in the least, and he escaped immediately afterwards. The bombproofs and magazines were then entered by a great number of the rebels, while others turned the guns of the fort on Fort Haskell, another of our large works, about half a mile to the left. A fierce artillery duel ensued, and amidst its noise and smoke the work of planing the officers' quarters went briskly on.

CAPTURE OF GENERAL McLAUGHLIN.

While the above scenes were being enacted, General McLaughlin, commanding the Third brigade of General Wilcox's division, proceeded to make a proper disposition of his troops to repel the attack. He rode out to the breastworks and into Battery No. 11, just to the left of Fort Steedman, to ascertain the position of the rebels. They were, however, already inside the battery, and captured him before he had time to turn his horse round. Lieutenant Thomas Sturges, aid-de-camp on his staff, was captured at the same time. It is believed they were sent off to the rear immediately.

REPEL OF THE REBELS.

The command of the brigade then devolved on Colonel Robinson, of the Third Maryland battalion, who had only returned from a furlough the evening before. The rebels were by this time pressing forward, not only towards the railroad, but also in the direction of the Third brigade headquarters. The Twenty-ninth, Fifty-seventh and Fifty-ninth Massachusetts, Third Maryland battalion, One Hundredth Pennsylvania and a part of the Fourteenth New York heavy artillery, were formed in line, and holding the rebels in check, although their skirmish line was within fifty yards of the brigade headquarters, and some of their men had succeeded in cutting the telegraph wire. The rebels charged wildly, and for a short time fought with energy and determination. Some Pennsylvania regiments, of General J. F. Harranft's division (the Third), came up and turned the tide of battle. The rebel line was charged with great vigor, when they immediately broke and ran. The rout was complete, and the demoralization of the rebel column never excelled. They endeavored to get back to their own line, but not more than about five hundred succeeded in doing so. Regimental and company officers and privates surrounded at discretion. About fifteen

hundred prisoners were captured, of whom at least sixty were officers. Many stands of colors and immense numbers of small arms also fell into our hands. In the final charge Major Arthur McCallan, of General Wright's staff, and Captain A. M. Tyler, of General Wheaton's staff, took part, and a rebel column surrendered to them. Colonel Morehead, of the Fifty-third North Carolina; Colonel H. A. Brown, First North Carolina, and Lieutenant Colonel W. P. Mosley, Twenty-first North Carolina, were among the rebel officers captured. Colonel Morehead, after his capture, and the rebel column had, in his opinion, been completely annihilated.

SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY.

Captain Joseph F. Carter was captured by the rebels early in the fight, but afterwards managed to escape and captured two rebel battle flags, one belonging to the Fifty-first Virginia and another to the Twenty-ninth North Carolina.

Every officer belonging to the Twenty-second Massachusetts Volunteer was captured, and all but two afterwards escaped.

Captain R. L. Swords, ordnance officer on the staff of General Wilcox, was captured, as was also Major Robinson, of the Twenty-ninth Massachusetts.

Captain Joseph L. Johnson, of the One Hundredth Pennsylvania, captured a battle flag of the Fifth Virginia. Private J. B. Chambers, of Company F, same regiment, captured a flag belonging to the First Virginia. Corporal M. B. Devine, of Company A, brought in a rebel flag staff, with part of a color attached, and another battle flag was captured by Corporal Sergeant Charles Oliver, of Company M, One Hundredth Pennsylvania Volunteers.

A large number of prisoners were taken, and many of them were sent to the rear. The rebels were killed this morning while endeavoring to rally his men.

FORT STEEDMAN AFTER THE FIGHT.

By fifteen minutes past eight o'clock the rebels had all been either killed, wounded, captured or driven back. The line was again reformed, and surgeons and chaplains were ministering to the wants of the wounded, both rebel and Union. Fort Steedman presented a vivid picture of the ravages of war. Dead and wounded men were lying in and around it, and the ground in many places was soaked in blood. Small arms, ammunition, cooking utensils, regimental documents and fragments of shells, were scattered about in every direction. Every officer and private had lost something, either horses, clothing or equipments, and all were alike indignant. The roofs of their houses had in many instances been perforated by shells, and almost every chimney was shattered. But the rebels had not succeeded in carrying off a single piece of artillery.

REBEL FLAG OF TRUCE.

A flag of truce was displayed from the rebel works shortly after the attack had been repulsed, and permission was asked for them to be allowed to bury their dead who had been killed between the lines. This was granted; and burying parties from both armies were soon engaged on that melancholy duty. While doing so they occasionally entered into conversation with each other; when the rebel Major General Walker rode out, and commanded his men to go on with their work, "as he would not allow any such damned nonsense as that."

STRENGTHENING THE LINE.

Reinforcements were on their way to this part of the line shortly after the attack commenced, but their services were fortunately not required. General Wheaton's division of the Sixth corps and a brigade of cavalry remained within supporting distance for some time, during which they were occasionally visited by a Whitworth bolt from the rebel batteries.

SUMMARY OF THE AFFAIR.

The Ninth corps has every reason to be proud of its success. It was one of the sharpest, shortest and most severe engagements of the war, and reflects infinite credit on all the troops engaged. With a loss of a little over six hundred men they completely annihilated a rebel column three thousand strong, and have taught them another lesson of what can be achieved by the veterans of the Army of the Potomac.

LIST OF CASUALTIES IN THE CORPS.

With this respect I forward you a list of casualties, and desire to say that many of the men are badly hurt. An unusual per cent of the wounded were inflicted on the head. There are large numbers of rebel wounded now in the Ninth corps hospitals, where they receive the same care and attention from Dr. White and other medical gentlemen of the corps as our own wounded do.

THE SIXTH CORPS.

Mr. Chas. H. Hannan's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH ARMY CORPS, NEAR PETERSBURG, March 26, 1865.

A FIGHT ON THE LINE.

Just four hours after the repulse of the rebel attack on the right of our line the thunder of artillery and the crash of musketry again rolled loudly on the chilly March air. This time, however, everything was reversed. The sounds came from the left, not the right; we were the attacking party, not the rebels, and the ground we won was not recovered by the rebels, and is now held by the Sixth corps, which knows no such word as fall when ordered to the assault.

THE CHARGE.

The object of this demonstration on our part was for the purpose of preventing the rebels massing their troops, and at the same time to ascertain, if possible, their strength.

THE GROUND GAINED.

The rebel line which we took, and now hold, is considerably in advance of our main line. They had erected an elaborate series of rifle pits, behind which, and outside of their main line, it would have been quite possible, had they so desired it, to have massed twenty thousand men, as they are built much faster from their main line than are our own works of a similar character. They were driven out of these works and compelled to take shelter within their fort, or else be captured. The majority preferred the latter alternative.

THE SCENE OF THE FIGHT.

Our position, from which the attack was made, was at the extreme left angle of our works. At this point our lines are only about two miles from the Southside Railroad. The ground in front is more level than is usually seen in this part of the country, and the wood has to a great extent been cleared away. From the nature of the position, the rebel batteries to a certain extent outflank our works, and many of our camps are within easy artillery range. One of our largest works at this point is Fort Fisher, to the left of which are a number of thirty pounders, which did great execution within the rebel line to-day. To the left of this heavy battery is Fort Welch, which is at the extreme angle, and the first fort on our reversed rear line is Fort Gregg. The left of the Sixth corps here connects with the right of the First division of the Second corps, which advanced simultaneously with this corps.

GENERAL ARRIVING ON THE FIELD.

About two o'clock Major General Wright and staff reached Fort Fisher, where he was immediately joined by Generals Wheaton, Seymour, Getty, Keifer, Grant and others attached to the corps. The picket line, at this time opposite the angle, was composed of the Tenth Vermont and Fourteenth New Jersey, supported by portions of the One Hundredth and Tenth and One Hundredth and Twenty-second Ohio Volunteers.

THE OFFENSIVE MANEUVER ON THE ENEMY.

The first assault on the rebel line of rifle pits was made by the above mentioned troops, all under command of Lieutenant Colonel George R. Damon, of the Tenth Vermont Volunteers. They charged the rebel position with great gallantry and courage, entering and occupying the line. But the rebels becoming aware of the weakness of the attacking party massed a large and overwhelming body of troops, and our men were compelled to fall back to their original position. This they did in good order, and although the majority of them had been on picket for many hours, they showed a steady and bold front to the enemy.

THE ARTILLERY OPENS.

The artillery in the different forts laid by this time became warmly engaged with the rebel batteries, and a company of the Ninth New York heavy artillery, in charge of the thirty pounders, sent a shell with such accuracy as to blow up a caisson in one of the rebel works.

THE SECOND CORPS ENGAGED.

Strengthening the line of attack.

A stronger attacking line was required and reinforcements were rapidly arriving.

Part of the Third division (General Truman Seymour's command) was placed on the left of the line to connect

with the Second corps. It was composed of the Tenth Vermont, Fourteenth New Jersey, One Hundredth and Tenth, One Hundredth and Twenty-second Ohio, and One Hundredth and Twenty-second Ohio, Sixth Maryland and part of the Ninth New York heavy artillery. This comprised nearly the whole of General Keifer's brigade, and also two regiments of General Trux's.

The center of the line was formed by the Second, Third and First brigades of General Getty's division, and the right by two brigades, the Second and Third of General Frank Wheaton's division. When the line was fully formed and everything in readiness the flag of the Second brigade, Third division, was waved as a signal for the troops to move forward.

THE CHARGE AND ITS RESULT.

From the parapet of Fort Fisher the blue crossed flag waved, and from the thousands of brave men about to risk life and limb came a ringing cheer, and as on ward they swept many a "God speed" followed them. The batteries on both sides were hard at work, and not many minutes elapsed before the sharper ring of small arms was heard. The line was fast closing on the rebel position, and a few minutes would serve to show what off success would be. Another cheer from our troops, and a simultaneous volley of musketry from both sides, and the works were reached. Colonel B. F. Smith, of the One Hundredth and Twenty-second Ohio Volunteers, and Major Clifton K. Prentiss, of the Sixth Maryland Volunteers, were the first to enter the rebel line. An entrance gained, the rebels started, and the works were ours. Scores of the rebels preferred being captured to running away, and as soon as they saw our troops inside their lines they threw down their arms, and gave themselves up as prisoners of war.

We have, however, to regret the loss of many brave and good men on this occasion, among whom is Colonel Dwight, of the One Hundredth and Twenty-second New York Volunteers. No more popular gentleman or accomplished soldier has given his life to his country than Colonel Dwight, who was killed to-day while leading his regiment in the charge which resulted so gloriously.

LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

At this early hour after the fight it is impossible to tell what our losses will amount to. The list of casualties which I forward with this is complete, and as you will observe, they were particularly heavy in the Second division—General Getty's. We took about four hundred and twenty prisoners from the rebels, including several commissioned officers, all of whom seemed only too glad to be captured. Many rebel wounded also fell into our hands. The wounded were sent immediately to the division hospitals, where every preparation had been made for their comfort by Dr. S. A. Holman, Medical Director of the corps, who was ably and zealously assisted by Doctors Bedford Sharpe, Willard A. Childie and others.

MORALE OF THE TROOPS.

The result of this fight has proved that the enthusiasm and energy of Lee's army are dividing down to zero. They fight like desperate men, and are desperate men, and the spirit which animated them two years ago has been broken by repeated defeats and lamed by short rallies. Even their artillery is not served with the old time energy and precision; and but little doubt need be entertained of the truth of the statement of deserters, who are constantly asserting that they are all tired of fighting.

SUNDAY MORNING—8 A. M.

THE NEW POSITION HELD.

The new position gained and occupied by this corps last evening is now held by a strong body of our troops, who will be able to repel any attack the rebels may make.

THE SECOND CORPS.

Mr. Wm. J. Starke's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, SECOND CORPS, March 26, 1865.

THE WORK OF THE SECOND CORPS.

I set down at a late hour this evening to give you the details of a fight with the rebels which commenced at about half past nine o'clock this morning, and continued, with slight interruption, until evening, culminating in repeated charges of the enemy, which were as often handsomely repulsed by our brave veterans.

THE SECOND CORPS CALLED OUT.

At four o'clock this morning we were aroused from our slumbers by the sound of heavy and continued artillery firing on the Ninth corps' front, opposite Petersburg, and soon after, in accordance with orders from army headquarters, the entire corps was standing under arms. Daylight found us with battle struck, baggage packed and every one prepared for an instant start. News soon after reached us that the enemy had attacked the Ninth corps in force, and had succeeded in capturing Fort Steedman. The usual train did not arrive from City Point and a good deal of anxiety was felt. Immediate preparations were made by General Humphreys to take advantage of the probable concentration of